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BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Contributions will assist the Boone County Historical Society and the Cragun House Restoration Program. We are developing new and updating existing exhibits and collections. Please return this completed form with a membership check made payable to:



Boone County Historical Society
P. O. Box 141
Lebanon, In 46052

Phone: 765-483-9414

**Cragun
House
Over 100
Years Old**

Corporate or Business Name: _____

Name or Representative Contact: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home or Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Fax Number: _____ Email Address _____

Volunteer Interest _____

Membership Dues: (Select)

- Corporate** — (30 employees or more) \$ 100 year
- Adult 18+** — \$ 20 year
- Non Profit Organization** — \$ 35 year
- Business** — (29 employees or less) \$ 50 year
- 2 Adults or Family + children** - \$ 35 year
- Life Time** (One Individual) — \$ 110 one time

Special Contribution:

In addition to our/my membership, we wish to contribute a gift to the Boone County Historical Society

Please find enclosed \$ _____ If anonymous check here _____:

Cragun House Restoration and Maintenance Project Contribution \$ _____

Sponsors interested in programs and individuals wanting to participate in a planned activity should contact Judy Walburn; 765-482-0870

Contributions will assist the Society develop new programs, Sustain exhibits and collections expand membership to include young residents, continue facility improvements and enhance education programs.

New Members Signature: _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Cragun Family History

The Craguns have a long history in Boone County. **Elisha Cragun** (1786 – 1847) was born on the 22nd of February in Tennessee. He was the second child of **Patrick** and **Rose Alley Cragun**. In 1881 at the age of 25 he married **Mary (Polly) Osborn** age 21 (1790 – 1844), daughter of **James** and **Mary Osborn** from the state of Virginia. The Osborn's are recorded as being wealthy slave and land owners. Elisha was the first of his family to settle in Boone County, Indiana around 1835. He was a veteran of the War of 1812 and as such had a claim on government land for his service in the military. He brought his wife, **Mary (Polly)**, and nine of their 10 children to the community of Pleasant View in Eagle Township between Zionsville and Whitestown. Here they began the work of carving out a farm in the tree covered Indiana landscape (black walnut trees grew in abundance). Not much is known about the family during this period. *“Early Life and Times in Boone County, Indiana”* written by Samuel Hardin tells about the unbroken wilderness and the swamps that covered the County landscape. A few hardy pioneers came to this area and the Craguns are listed among those early travelers. Many of the Craguns, including Elisha, migrated west, but Elisha's third child, **Hiram** (1816 – 1894) stayed in Boone County and continued to farm. In 1842 he married **Reiter Dooley** (1826 – 1914), a native of Shelby County, Kentucky. Hiram continued to farm his land and in 1851 *“The Big Four Railroad”* was built thru it. The home later became known as St. Clair stop, the farm grew to 245 acres and was considered one of the best farms in that locality. Hiram and Reiter eventually had nine children, most of them chose lines in farming. One, however **Strange Nathaniel Cragun** born (**July 24, 1857 – died in 1926**) became prominent in Boone County through his service in education and publishing. Strange Nathaniel Cragun eventually, attended the Zionsville Academy for three years and a one year term at Purdue University. After his schooling he became a teacher at the age of seventeen. In 1879, following his teaching in various schools throughout the county, he was a candidate for admission into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He was chosen to attend but was forced to resign after only two years of study because of health reasons. Strange N. Cragun returned to Boone County in 1881 and to his teaching. Over the next ten years he served as principal of Whitestown, Zionsville and the Lebanon Schools. On May 2, 1891 he purchased the then – Republican slated Lebanon Patriot (the oldest newspaper in the County), a forerunner of the Lebanon Reporter, and began his career in newspapers. During this time (6-17-1893), he became principal of Lebanon High School, he married **Adelaide M. Booher** (September 10, 1857 – December 11, 1932), a Worth township resident. Addie was the daughter of **Benjamin** and **Margaret Beeler Booher**. According to Strange's obituary, Addie had been the “daughter of a prominent and wealthy citizen of Lebanon.” “The family was highly respected and moved in the best social circles of the county” continues the obituary. Strange and Addie began married life in a house at 404 West Main Street but, to the rear of the present lot. While they lived there in the old house, construction began on their current Cragun House. Cragun served on the Lebanon School Board, organized the Citizens Loan and Trust Company, served as director of the First National Bank for more than twenty-five years and was involved with community and civic clubs. In 1916 he was commissioned a member of the State Tax Board by then Governor Samuel Ralston of Lebanon now living in Indianapolis Indiana. Strange and Adelaide had three children, Twin daughters Opal and Ethel, born in 1885, who tragically died when they were six and eleven years old, due to the effects of scarlet fever. They also had a son **Dwight Booher Cragun** born in 1891 and later died in 1971. Dwight married **Mabel Martin** in 1928 and they spent their entire married lives in the house now located at 404 West Main Street. Following Mabel's death in 1987 the children **Ben, Dwight Lloyd, Colleen** and **Claudette** gave the home, property and it's contents plus cash as a gift , to the Boone County Historical Society in 1988. **THREE GENERATIONS OF CRAGUNS HAVE LIVED IN THIS HOME. 1893 - 1887**